

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 OMB-01 AID-20

RSR-01 /129 W

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O R 101100 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1469

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 8240

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT, MAY 10, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE
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TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 MAY 10.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I ICCS: ICCS PLENARY ARGUES OVER VARIOUS MATTERS;
FLIGHT SAFETY STILL UNRESOLVED; MINE DETONATES
NEAR CANDEL QUARTERS AT BEN HET; ICCS VEHICLE
REPORTEDLY FIRED ON IN DELTA.

PART II TPJMC: CIVILIAN DETAINEE RELEASE STALLED IN QUANG
TRI OVER RALLIER ISSUE.

PART III TENTH RVN/ PRG BILATERAL PRODUCES ONLY MORE POLEMICS

PART IV HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA: ANOTHER BLAST AT CANDEL CHIEF
AMB. GAUVIN

PART V MR-1: MILITARY ACTIVITY VERY LOW

PART VI MR-2: MILITARY ACTIVITY VERY LOW

PART VII MR-3: TONG LE CHAN STILL BESIEGED; SOME FIGHTING
IN LONG AN; VNAF HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN IN BIEN HOA.

PART VIII MR-4: ACTION SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED; GVN ARRESTS MY
THO TERRORISTS.

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. FOUR- HOUR ICCS PLENARY MAY 9 OPENED WITH STORYM BATTLE JUST
TO APPROVE RECORD OF DECISION FROM PREVIOUS 57 TH SESSION. IN THAT
MAY 7 MEETING, CANDEL HAD PROPOSED WRITTING ICCS LETTER TO PRG
SUGGESTING PRG DEPLOYMENT TO ALL TPJMC SITES. POLDEL/ HUNGDEL
HAD AGREED TO CANDEL PROPOSAL, PROVIDING LETTER SENT TO BOTH PRG
AND RVN. WHEN DRAFT LETTER WAS CIRCULATED AS FIRST ORDER OF
BUSINESS MAY 9, CANDEL WAS DISMAYED TO FIND THAT LETTER ONLY
DREW ATTENTION TO FACT THAT TPJMC NOT YET DEPLOYED BUT CONTAINED NO
SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PRG. WRANGLE THEN DEVELOPED OVER
" RECORD OF DECISION" FROM MAY 7 MEETING, I. E., WHETHER LETTER
WAS TO REFER TO TPJMC DEPLOYMENT OR PRG DEPLOYMENT. HUNGDEL
FINALLY OFFERED COMPROMISE TO WHICH CANDEL AGREED: ICCS LETTER
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WOULD BE SENT TO PRG/ RVN CONCERNING " DEPLOYMENT OF TPJMC AND
SPECIFICALLY DEPLOYMENT OF PRG."

2. SIMILAR DISAGREEMENT AROSE WHEN DRAFT LETTER, AS REQUESTED
BY CANDEL MAY 7, WAS CIRCULATED REGARDING ICCS INABILITY
TO SUPERVISE DETAINEE RELEASES DUE TO LACK OF AGREEMENT WITH
PRG OVER FLIGHT SAFETY AND AIR CORRIDOR WIDTHS. DRAFT LETTER
ONLY STATED THAT ICCS COULD NOT AGREE WITH TPJMC. CANDEL
AGAIN OBJECTED BUT RECORD OF DECISION WAS UNCLEAR, NO
COMPROMISE WAS REACHED, AND THE MATTER WILL BE FURTHER
DISCUSSED AT NEXT PLENARY.

3. COMMENT: AS THIS MONTH' S ICCS CHAIRMAN, POLDEL IS

RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAFTING SUCH LETTERS AND ALSO MAINTAINING PLENARY RECORD OF DECISION. POLDEL ACTIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. AS ILLUSTRATED, POLDEL REMAINS DETERMINED TO AVOID ANY CONDEMNATION OF THE PRG AND IS USING ITS PRESENT POSITION TO FURTHER THAT END.

4. ICCS PLENARY THEN ROUTINELY HANDLED EIGHT INVESTIGATION REPORTS FOLLOWING FAMILIAR PATTERN. THREE UNANIMOUS REPORTS WERE THOSE THAT CONCLUDED THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO LABEL THE INCIDENT A VIOLATION OR THAT CONDITIONS WERE INADEQUATE TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION. IN THE OTHER FIVE INVESTIGATIONS, THERE WAS THE CLASSIC SPLIT: CANDEL/ INDODEL CONDEMNED THE PRG, WHILE HUNGDEL/ POLDEL OFFERED DIFFERING VIEWS. IN ONE CASE, HUNGDEL/ POLDEL BLAMED ARVN FOR MAKING COUNTER- ATTACK, IGNORING ORIGINAL ATTACK BY CONFIRMED NVA REGULARS. HOWEVER, IN ANOTHER CASE HUNGDEL/ POLDEL DEMONSTRATED A RARE SIGN OF SOME IMPARTIALITY BY CONCLUDING THAT BOTH SIDES HAD VIOLATED TRUCE. REPORTS AND VIEWS WERE FORWARDED TO TPJMC.

5. THERE FOLLOWED A DISCUSSION OF SEVEN REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIONS, SIX BY RVN. THE SINGLE PRG COMPLAINT WAS GRAB- BAG OF CHARGES ACCUSING ARVN OF " RAIDING, SHELLING, ENCROACHING AND MAKING PEOPLE- HERDING OPERATIONS" IN AREAS UNDER VC CONTROL NEAR CU CHI AND TRANG BANG IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE. IN ALL CASES, IT WAS AGREED TO INSTRUCT APPROPRIATE REGIONS AND SUB- REGION TEAMS TO UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATION.

6. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF BEN HET/ AN LOC WITHDRAWALS.
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WE UNDERSTAND MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL BE CONSIDERING THE WITHDRAWALS IN MAY 10 MEETING. ON THE RECORD, INDODEL REMAINS COMMITTED TO EVACUATING ITS PERSONNEL FROM BEN HET/ AN LOC EVEN IF MILITARY COMMITTEE CONCLUDES ICCS SHOULD STAY.

7. POLOFF PLEIKU REPORTS THAT AT THE BEN HET ICCS SITE ON MAY 6 A PRG JEEP PASSING TWO OR THREE YARDS FROM THE CANDEL HUT DETONATED A MINE. THE MINE EXPLODED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE VEHICLE' S PASSAGE, AND THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO THE JEEP AND NO CASUALTIES. WE ASSUME THAT THE MINE WAS AN OLD ONE AS THE PRG, GIVEN ITS ACTIONS AT DUC CO, WOULD NOT RPT NOT WANT TO REINFORCE THE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE IN THE ICCS WISHING TO EVACUATE BEN HET. INDODEL AT REGION III (PLEIKU) HEADQUARTERS, CONSISTENT WITH THEIR OVERALL ATTITUDE ON BEN HET AND AN LOC, ARE MAKING MORE OF THE INCIDENT THAN THE OTHER THREE DELEGATIONS.

8. A REGION VI (MY THO) ICCS CANADIAN WARRANT OFFICER REPORTED THE JEEP HE WAS DRIVING ON QL-4 WAS FIRED UPON ABOUT 3 KM WEST OF CAI LAY DISTRICT TOWN AROUND DUSK MAY 8. THE OFFICER, WHO WAS TRAVELLING ALONE, WAS NOT HIT NOR WAS THE VEHICLE DAMAGED. THIS INCIDENT HAS ATTRACTED WIDESPREAD PRESS ATTENTION.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01

RSR-01 /129 W

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O R 101100 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1470
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART II: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

1. TUESDAY' S MEETING OF CHIEFS OF DELEGATION RESULTED IN NO RPT NO
DISCERNIBLE HEADWAY ON ANY ISSUE. ALTHOUGH RELEASES OF CIVILIAN
DETAINEES ARE PROCEEDING IN ON- AGAIN- OFF- AGAIN FASHION (SEE NEXT
PARAGRAPH), THERE CURRENTLY APPEARS TO BE NO PROGRESS IN
BRIDGING GAPS BETWEEN RVN AND PRG POSITIONS ON OTHER ISSUES SUCH
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AS OF MILITARY POW' S, CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE AND ENFORCEMENT, OR
DEPLOYMENT. MOOD AT RVN DEL HEADQUARTERS INCREASINGLY REFLECTS
COMMENT MADE LATE LAST WEEK BY GEN. THUAN, DELEGATION CHIEF:
" THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SOME PROGRESS IN PARIS" BEFORE TPJMC CAN

MOVE MUCH FURTHER.

2. AFTER TWO DAYS' OF FAIRLY SMOOTH AND UNEVENTFUL RELEASES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES BY RVN AT QUANG TRI (OF 400 SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE, SEVEN ELECTED TO REMAIN IN RVN), MAY 9 RELEASE RAN INTO PROBLEMS. GVN HAD PLANNED TO RELEASE 250, ALL OF WHOM WERE WOMEN, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 32 CHILDREN. CONGEN DANANG REPORTS THAT WHEN FIRST GROUP OF 25 REACHED NORTH BANK OF THACH HAN RIVER, AND BEFORE PASSING INTO PRG CONTROL, 11 WOMEN RALLIED. GVN ATTEMPTED TO RETURN THEM IMMEDIATELY TO SOUTH BANK BUT PRG REFUSED, SAYING ALL 250 MUST BE RETURNED BEFORE THE QUESTION OF RALLIERS WOULD BE CONSIDERED. GVN REFUSED TO CONTINUE REPATRIATION UNTIL 11 RALLIERS WERE ALLOWED TO RE- CROSS RIVER. FIRST GROUP OF 25 PLUS GVN GUARDS SPENT THE NIGHT ON THE NORTH BANK; REMAINDER OF THOSE TO BE RELEASED SPENT THE NIGHT ON TRUCKS ON THE SOUTH BANK.

3. LATE REPORT FROM CONGEN DANANG: NEGOTIATIONS THROUGHOUT MAY 10 FAILED TO RESOLVE IMPASSE. ONE OF 11 ON NORTH BANK WHO RALLIED CHANGED HER MIND AND SHE AND OTHER 14 HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PRG. OTHER 10 PLUS RVN ESCORTS REMAIN ON NORTH BANK BUT REPORTEDLY BEING WELL TREATED. REMAINING DETAINEES HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO HUE.

PART III: TENTH GVN/ PRG BILATERAL IN PARIS

AT MAY 9 TENTH PLENARY MEETING OF GVN/ PRG BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS CALLED FOR BY PARIS AGREEMENT THE TWO SIDES MERELY REITERATED PREVIOUSLY ADVANCED POSITIONS, GVN IN REASONABLE MODERATE MANNER AND PRG WITH INVECTIVE AGAINST GVN AND US. PRESS CONFERENCES FOLLOWING MEETING INCLUDED PRG DENUNCIATIONS OF PRG DENUNCIATIONS OF PRESIDENT THIEU' S " WATERGATE STYLE" AND GVN TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, WHILE GVN SPOKESMAN DEFENDED GVN PLANS TO HOLD LOCAL ELECTIONS AND LAMENTED LACK OF INFORMATION ON PRISONERS HELD IN PRG AND DRV CAMPS. FOR FULL REPORT SEE USDEL JEC PARIS 12775. ELEVENTH PLENARY IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 17.

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PART IV: HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA

CANADIAN ICCS CHIEF GAUVIN ONCE AGAIN WAS THE TARGET OF COMMUNIST PILLORY IN A HANOI RADIO BROADCAST MAY 9. THE BROADCAST CLAIMED THAT IN VIEW OF " VERY GRAVE AND SYSTEMATIC" VIOLATIONS BY THE US AND GVN, IT IS NO WONDER THAT THESE TWO GOVERNMENTS HEAP LAVISH PRAISE ON GAUVIN AND JOIN IN THE LATTER' S " BLATANT SLANDER." HANOI ALSO SCORED THE US FOR EXERTING PRESSURE ON POLAND AND HUNGARY FOR THEIR OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS IN THE ICCS AND, RATHER LAMELY, ASSERTED THAT THE FACT THAT THE US AND GVN HAVE EXERTED SUCH PRESSURE " PROVES" THAT THOSE TWO COUNTRIES' DELEGATIONS " HAVE PERFORMED THEIR DUTIES IN A CORRECT AND SERIOUS MANNER." (EMBASSY COMMENT: HANOI HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF THE CANADIANS IN

GENERAL AND GAUVIN IN PARTICULAR, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE APRIL 17 QUANG TRI HELICOPTER TRAGEDY; GAUVIN THEN PUBLICLY ASSERTED THAT FORCES WHOSE PRESENCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT, I. E., THE NVA MAY HAVE SHOT THE ICCS HELICOPTERS DOWN.

PART V: MR 1

1. CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED AT I CORPS BRIEFING FELL TO A NEW LOW OF FIVE, ALL ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) TOTALLING 138 MORTAR ROUNDS. FOUR OF THE FIVE WERE IN FIRST DIVISION AO.

2. VC/ NVA SUPPLY ROUTES UP AND DOWN THE SONG VE RIVER VALLY, SOME 20 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF QUANG NGAI CITY, ARE BEING DISRUPTED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE 69 TH RANGER BATTALION IN A BLOCKING POSITION AND EXTENSIVE SEARCH OPERATIONS OF THE 2 ND BATTALION, 6 TH ARVN REGIMENT. ACCORDING TO SECTOR INFORMATION AS REPORTED TO AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI, THE 141 ST NVA REGIMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SEND TRANSPORT TROOPS TO PICK UP RICE BROUGHT FROM NORTHWEST MO DUC DISTRICT BECAUSE OF THE DISRUPTION.

3. THE VC ARE HARASSING THE RECENTLY RETURNED VILLAGES OF SON HOA, SON MY AND SON QUANG IN EASTERN SON TINH DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI. AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT THE PEOPLE ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT VC INTERFERENCE AND ABOUT THE MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS WHICH MAKE WORKING THE FIELDS DANGEROUS. ALTHOUGH
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THE VC LOCAL FORCES AND GUERRILLAS IN THAT AREA ARE WEAK AND POPULAR FORCES IN THE THREE RETURNED VILLAGES HAVE BEEN REINFORCED, NIGHT ENTRIES INTO THE SITES CONTINUE. IN ONE INSTANCE THE VC CALLED INDIVIDUALS BY NAME AND IN ANOTHER INCITED THE VILLAGERS AGAINST THEIR CHIEF, WHO HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF POCKETING PAYMENTS FOR COMMUNAL LAND PURCHASES.

PART VI: MR 2

1. MOST OF MR 2 WAS PEACEFUL DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, ACCORDING TO REGIONAL BRIEFING. NORTHERN BINH DINH, AS USUAL, BORE BRUNT OF WHAT FIGHTIN THERE WAS. OF A TOTAL OF ELEVEN INCIDENTS REPORTED, SEVEN OCCURRED IN THAT AREA, WHILE REMAINING FOUR WERE SPLIT BETWEEN PHU YEN, BINH T
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ACTION EA-14

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RSR-01 /129 W

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O R 101100 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1471
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USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
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CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART VII: MR 3

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR 3 REMAINED AT A FAIRLY LOW LEVEL DURING THE 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS 10 MAY. THERE WERE 20 COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED CONSISTING OF 8 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) , 6 GROUND CONTACTS, 3 MINE INCIDENTS, 2 SNIPINGS, AND 1 VNAF HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE. TOTAL CASUAL-
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LTIES REPORTED IN THE REGION DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD WERE 5 FRIENDLY KILLED, 18 WOUNDED, AND 25 COMMUNISTS KILLED.

2. TONG LE CHAN RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 142 ROUNDS OF MIXED 61 MM AND 82 MM MORTAR FIRE. THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUED USING LOUDSPEAKERS ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE THE RANGERS TO SURRENDER THE CAMP. DAO SAIGON REPORTS AIR RESUPPLY EFFORT AT TONG LE CHAN MAY 9: 5 BUNDLES DROPPED, 5 RECOVERED.

3. MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT OCCURRED IN LONG AN PROVINCE WHEN AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED THE 332 ND RF BATTALION 7 KMS EAST OF CAN GIUOC DISTRICT TOWN. RESULTS WERE 5 FRIENDLY WOUNDED AND 11 COMMUNISTS KILLED. LONG AN SECTOR HEADQUARTERS LAUNCHED AN OPERATION INTAN TRU DISTRICT AND MADE CONTACT WITH AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE J KMS EC

MC

OF TAN TRU DISTRICT TOWN. RESULTS WERE 10 COMMUNISTS KILLED AND NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES.

4. AT 1700 HOURS 9 MAY IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE A VNAF WORK HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN 6 KMS EAST OF LONG THAN DISTRICT TOWN WOUNDING 1 CREW MEMBER. THE DOWNED HELICOPTER WAS RECOVERED AN HOUR LATER.

5. OVER SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY ETHNIC VIETNAMESE FROM CAMBODIA CROSSED THE BORDER AND ARE NOW TEMPORARILY HOUSED IN THE PHUOC DIEN MARKET AREA IN TAY NINH PROVINCE. THESE REFUGEES, WHO STATE THEY FLED VIET CONG CONTROL BECAUSE THE VC/ NVA PLANNED TO KILL THE M, SAID MORE ETHNIC VIETNAMESE IN CAMBODIA WANT TO CROSS TO AREAS UNDER GVN CONTROL.

6. COLONEL LONG, VIETNAMESE DELEGATE TO THE TPJMC, TOLD A CG POLOFF THAT THE VIET CONG DELEGATES TO THE TPJMC TALKS IN SAIGON PROPOSED FEWER SITES, RESPONSIBLE FOR LARGER AREAS, ON A TRIAL BASIS, FOR EVERY TPJMC SUB- REGIONAL TEAM EXCEPT THOSE OPERATING IN REGION V. THE GVN RESPONSE WAS TO CALL ON THE VIET CONG TO STAFF FULLY THE ORIGINALLY AGREED UPON SUB- REGIONAL SITES.

7. AT A MEETING WEDNESDAY CHAIRED BY DR. DAN, GVN REFUGEE AFFAIRS MINISTER, IT WAS DECIDED TO MOVE ABOUT 11,000 MONTAGNARD REFUGEES FROM BINH LONG, NOW IN THE AN LOI REFUGEE CAMP SOUTH OF LONG
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BINH, TO THE TAN RAI RESETTLEMENT SITE IN LAM DONG PROVINCE. THE MOVE WILL BEGIN ON MAY 21 AND CONTINUE FOR 10 DAYS.

PART VIII: MR-4

1. MR IV REPORTED ACTION SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED, WITH 47 INCIDENTS ON MAY 9. AMONG THESE WERE SIX GROUND ATTACKS, 30 ABF, NINE HARASSMENTS, AND TWO INCIDENTS OF INFILTRATION. FRIENDLY LOSSES REPORTEDLY WERE 21 KILLED, 99 WOUNDED, AND ONE MISSING. THE VC/ NVA REPORTEDLY LOST 36 KILLED.

2. BG TRAN BA DI, NINTH ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER, TOLD A CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICER MAY 9 THAT THE EMBATTLED HONG NGU DISTRICT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET SINCE APRIL 26. THE VC/ NVA CONTINUE TO LAUNCH HARASSING MORTAR AND ROCKET ATTACKS FROM CAMBODIA, BUT ARE NOT INITIATING GROUND ATTACKS IN THE BORDER DISTRICT. HE STATED THAT THE VC/ NVA ARE RESTING AND REFITTING IN CAMBODIA AFTER MID- APRIL' S INTENSE FIGHTING. BG DI SPECULATED THAT THEY ENEMY MAY LAUNCH ANOTHER OFFENSIVE AROUND MAY 19, IN HONOR OF HO CHI MINH' S BIRTHDAY, BUT HE HAS NO FIRM INTELLIGENCE ON VC/ NVA INTENTIONS. HE SAID, " SINCE WE CANNOT GO AND ATTACK THEM, WE WAIT FOR THEM AND THEN PUT THEM IN THE MEAT GRINDER WHEN THEY COME. THEY ALSO GRIND US." DI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ARVN NINTH DIVISION HAD LOST SOME 70 KIA

AND 300 WIA BETWEEN APRIL 11 AND APRIL 26, WHEN THE HONG NGU OFFENSIVE PEAKED. HE INDICATED HE IS PROUD OF HIS UNITS' PERFORMANCE AND NOTED THEY ARE BATTLE- SEASONED VETERANS OF AN LOC. BG DI SAID THAT HE HAS STRICTLY RATIONED GASOLINE USAGE BECAUSE SUPPLIES ARE SHORT.

3. COL. LOI, CHAIRMAN OF THE GVN TPJMC REGION VI (MY THO) DELEGATION, TOLD TWO POLOFFS MAY 2 THAT HE EXPECTS THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE TPJMC TO BE DEPLOYED SOON. THE CRUCIAL PROBLEM REMAINS THE SITE IN REGION VI WHERE THE PRG DELEGATES WILL EMERGENTOR PICKUP. THE GVN REFUSES TO APPROVE A SITE IN ANY GVN- CONTROLLED OR IN ANY DISPUTED AREA, LEST THE PRG THENCE FORTH CLAIM THE SITE TO BE UNDER ITS JURISDICTION. COL. LOI SAID THAT THE TRI PHAP AREA IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, OR A SITE ALONG THE VAO BEO CANAL IN NORTH CENTRAL DINH TUONG, WOULD BE SATISFACTORY, BUT IF THE PRG INSISTS UPON BEING PICKER UP ELSEWHERE, THE GVN COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE PRG DELEGATES. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. CONGEN CAN THO COMMENT: COL. LOI' S REMARKS REFLECT GVN POLICY ON PICK- UPS DATING FROM THE FPJMC ERA, AND DO NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE PRG MAY SOON SURFACE A TPJMC CONTINGENT IN THE DELTA.

5. DINH TUONG POLICE LAST WEEK ARRESTED SEVERAL SUSPECTED VC SAPPERS. SOME WERE ARRESTED WHILE CARRYING HOLLOW COCONUTS CONTAINING PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES, AND A NUMBER OF ALREADY EMPLACED CHARGES WERE DISCOVERED AND DISARMED AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE OPERATION. ONE ARRESTED YOUTH ADMITTED INVOLVEMENT IN THE BOMBING OF THE VIET HAI RESTAURANT IN MY THO APRIL 23. (SEE SAIGON 711, APRIL 24 SITREP.)

6. THE DINH TUONG PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. NGUYEN VAN BONG, PLANS TO INVITE THE PRESS AND THE ICCS TO INTERVIEW THE CAPTURED SAPPERS. IF THE SUSPECTS ARE WILLING TO TALK, THEIR REVELATIONS MIGHT FORCE THE POLES/ HUNGARIANS ON THE ICCS TO REVIEW THEIR FINDINGS CONCERNING THE VIET HAI RESTAURANT INCIDENT. EARLIER, THE ICCS, AS USUAL, HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FIX THE BLAME FOR THE TERRORIST ATTACK. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF POLICE INTERROGATORS USED FORCE ON THE SUSPECTED SAPPERS, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS MIGHT USE THE ISSUE OF MISTREATMENT OF THE PRISONERS TO DERAIL THE INVESTIGATION. BUNKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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30 JUN 2005

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VIENTIANE
WARSAW
DANANG
NHA TRANG
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
FPJMT SAIGON

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